

# PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – for immediate release

## ESA launches Best Practice Guide for biodiversity

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) has today (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September) published a **Best Practice Guide** for Biodiversity in the resources and waste management sector, which aims to highlight the role organisations can play to restore, protect and enhance biodiversity in the face of its significant decline.

The guide, which was compiled by members of the ESA's *Biodiversity Working Group*, curates relevant policy, legislation and reporting/assessment tools, as well as a sample of real-world case studies from ESA members, to help organisations across the resources and waste management sector consider and report their impacts upon biodiversity – both positive and negative.

The publication of the report occurs as the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal is due to conclude, where it is hoped new global agreement will be reached on strategies to protect nature and biodiversity.

According to the **United Nations**, extracting and processing raw materials to meet global consumption accounts for 90% of biodiversity loss, but recycling helps to keep valuable materials in use for longer, which reduces the need to extract and process more.

Using recycled materials also mitigates the carbon emissions associated with the extraction and processing of raw materials – helping to slow climate change and its negative impact upon biodiversity. Additionally, waste management practices and regulations help to minimise pollution, which would otherwise threaten biodiversity.

However, in addition to these positive impacts arising from the sector's fundamental activities, operators can widen their influence through a range of interventions to restore, protect and enhance biodiversity – for example, through sensitive planning and delivery of construction projects or by creating and maintaining habitats on estate holdings. Additionally, accurate monitoring and reporting on biodiversity impacts helps to ensure effective governance and drive performance.

The report was published alongside a **short film** which summarises the sector's existing and future roles in addressing the biodiversity crisis.

**Chair of the Biodiversity Working Group, Leigh Broadhurst, said:** "Protecting biodiversity is critical for companies across their operations and supply chains, and is particularly important for organisations with decarbonisation, sustainability and ESG strategies. Our shareholders and stakeholders increasingly expect the companies they deal with to play a proactive role in addressing the ecological crisis and this *Best Practice Guide* serves as a reference point for organisations to monitor, plan and deliver biodiversity impacts and interventions – which we hope our peers and colleagues across the sector will find useful."

**ENDS**

Notes to editors:

A. A copy of *Best Practice Guide: Biodiversity and the resources and waste management industry* is available **here**. It is available to view and download from the Publications page of the ESA's website at [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

You are welcome to embed or link the short film in online coverage. If you would like to use the film, but cannot embed it, please contact Ben Johnson and an MP4 will be provided.

B. The Environmental Services Association (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK's resource and waste management industry. Our members are directly delivering the UK's transformation to a more circular economy and are leading the sector's efforts to decarbonise recycling and waste management operations and address the world's ecological crises.

The ESA works with government, regulators and the public to deliver sustainable and high-performing waste and resource management solutions for the UK. Our strategic priorities are to set high operational standards for the sector; to deliver more recycling and focus on up-stream interventions to eliminate waste; and to decarbonise our sector by 2040. You can find out more about the ESA and our members' work in our Annual Report for 2020/21. For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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